

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly,
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, March the 10th. 1703.

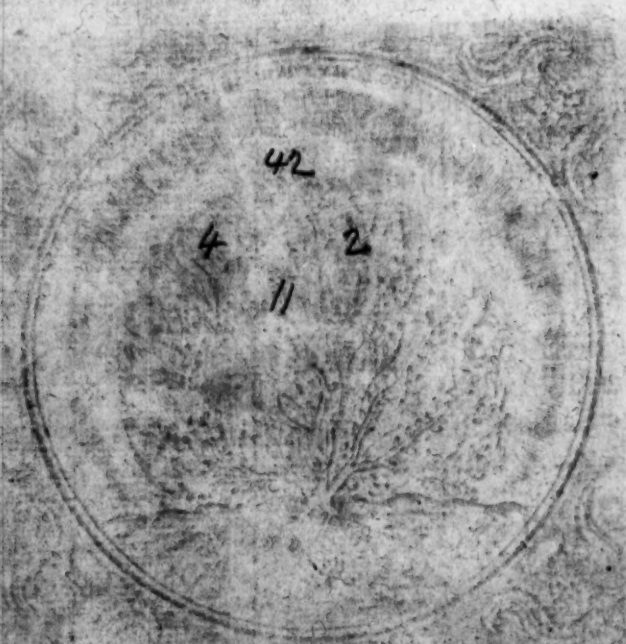
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EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and
Its ASSEMBLIES. M. DCC. III.

THE PRINCIPAL
 ACTS
 OF THE
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 OF THE
 CHURCH
 OF SCOTLAND
 Convened at Edinburgh, in the year 1703.
 Printed and Published from the Press of the Black and White



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THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
 OF THE
General Assembly,
 OF THE
CHURCH
 OF
SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, the 10th Day of *March* 1703
 And ending the 23 Day of the same Moneth.

*The Recording of the Queens Commission to James Earl of
 Seafeld Lord High Chancellor of this Kingdom, for Represent-
 ing Her Majesty in this Assembly.*

At *Edinburgh*, 10th. Day of *March*, 1703. Sess. 1.



THE General Assembly of the Ministers
 and Ruling Elders of this National
 Church, being Conveened and Consti-
 tute, there was produced to them by
James Earl of Seafeld Lord High Chan-
 cellor of this Kingdom, Her Majesties
 Commission under the Great and Privy
 Seals thereof; Making and Constituting
 him Her Majesties High Commissioner and Represen-
 tative in this National Assembly, which Commission being
 publicly Read with all due Honour and Respect; The
 General Assembly appointed the same to be Recorded in
 thair Registers, *Ad Futurum Rei Memoriam*. The Tenor
 whereof follows.

ANNA

dmen

“ **A** NNA, Dei Gratia, Magus Britannia, Francie & Hi-
 “ bernia Regina, Fideique Defensor, Omnibus Probis
 “ Hominibus, ad quos presentes Literæ nostræ pervenerint, Sa-
 “ lute[m], *Quandoquidem* nos ob multas bonas & magni mo-
 “ menti rationes nos moventes, Generalem Ecclesiæ Scotia
 “ conventum ad decimum Diem Mensis Martii sequentis
 “ apud Edinburgum Convenire Statuimus; Cumque testimo-
 “ niis per plurimos abunde nobis satisfactum sit, de præ-
 “ claris animi dotibus & fide eximia, Fidelissimi & dilectis-
 “ simi nostri consanguinei & conciliarii Jacobi Comitis de
 “ Seafeld, Supremi nostri Cancellarii dicti antiqui Regni
 “ nostri, Quodque ad munera Summi Officii infra mentio-
 “ nati, rite exercenda & obeunda usquequaque sit Idoneus.
 “ Noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse & ordinasse,
 “ sicuti nos tenore præsentium *Nominamus*, constituimus &
 “ ordinamus memoratum Jacobum Comitem de Seafeld Su-
 “ premum nostrum *Commissionarium* quoad effectum infra
 “ expressum, *Damus* pariter & concedimus illi sacram no-
 “ stram Personam & Autoritatem nostram Regalem Re-
 “ præsentandi, præsentiam nostram supplendi, locumque no-
 “ strum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu tanquam
 “ Commissionario nostro in hunc effectum specialiter consti-
 “ tuto, Tenendi, omniaque alia ad Imperium & Munus
 “ Commissionarii pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu peragen-
 “ di, tam plene adeoquelibere in quovis respectu quam qui-
 “ libet alius ejusdem supremi muneris & Characteris fecerat,
 “ seu quovis tempore retroacto facere potuerat, Atque si-
 “ cuti nos ipsæ personaliter præsentem facere poterimus, ple-
 “ nissimam & amplissimam nostram potestatem & Commis-
 “ sionem, *Quaquidem* omnia & singula a dicto Jacobo Comi-
 “ te de Seafeld in hac nostra Commissionem prosequenda, le-
 “ gitime facienda nos firmiter Approbamus, Rata Habemus
 “ & habitura sumus; Omnibus & singulis insuper antedicti
 “ Conventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris, & ceteris
 “ quibuscunque hujus nostri Regni subditis, cujuscunque
 “ qualitat[is] & conditionis, ut dictum Jacobum Comitem de
 “ Seafeld, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium
 “ quoad effectum & modum supra mentionatum agnoscant,
 “ Revereantur & dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricto
 “ mandamus & Imperamus, *Ac Denique* hanc nostram Com-
 “ missionem a die quo magnum hujus Regni sigillum præ-
 “ sentibus est appensum, & deinceps hac sequenti Sessione
 “ dicti Generalis Conventus, in vigore continuare declara-
 “ vimus, & per presentes declaramus, & usque dum a no-
 “ bis revocabitur & exonerabitur. *In cujus rei testimonium*
 “ præsentibus magnum sigillum nostrum, una cum secreto
 “ nostro sigillo appendi præcipimus, Apud Aulam nostram
 “ de

"de St. James's quinto die Mensis Februarii, Anno Domini,
"Millesimo Septingentesimo Tertio, & Anno Regni nostri
"Primo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. Reginae supra scriptam.

{ Locus
Magni
Sigilli
Appensi }

{ Locus
Secreti
Sigilli
Appensi }

In DORSO.

*Written to the Great Seal and
Registrat the ninth day of
March 1703. Charles
Kerr.*

*Sealed at Edinburgh, the ninth
day of March One Thousand
seven Hundred and Three
Years, by special Order till
the Seal be Renewed. Alex.
Ogilvie.*

*Sealed with the Privy Seal at
Edinburgh, the ninth day
of March 1703. Pat. Scott.*

I I.

Her Majestie's Gracious Letter

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Eadem Sessione.

HER Majesties High Commissioner presented Her Ma-
jesties most Gracious Letter, directed to this *General
Assembly*, which was publickly Read, with all due Honour
and Respect, and is appointed to be Recorded in the Regi-
sters of this Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows.

ANNE R.

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ANNE R.

Reverend and Well Beloved, We greet you Well, The time appointed by our Proclamation, dated the fifth Day of *February* 1703, for the sitting of the General Assembly, now approaching, We have made choice of our Right Trusty and Right well Beloved Cousin and Councillour, *James* Earl of *Seafield* Our High Chancellor, to be Our Commissioner to this Assembly, of whose Fidelity, Sufficiency and Zeal for our Service, We have had good Experience on several Occasions; And especially he having been very Acceptable to a former Assembly. We earnestly recommend to you to be Solicitously Careful, of what may Advance the the Interest of the Reformed Protestant Religion, and for suppressing the growth of Popery. We renew the Assurance given by us for protection of the Presbyterian Government, as that which we find acceptable to the Inclinations of Our People, and Established by the Laws of the Kingdom: We are confident that you will Act in this Assembly so, as We shall have new Reasons to be Satisfied with you and your Conduct; and that you will carry so with others of the Reformed Protestant Religion, albeit differing from you in Forms of Church Policy, that by your Meekness and Charity, they may be the more inclined to live Peaceably and Dutifully under us, and in Brotherly Love and Respect towards you, and the Established Church, wherein if they fail, we shall recommend to Our Privy Council to proceed diligently in Censure against such Delinquents, but we hope better things of them. We likewise recommend to you the placing of well qualified Ministers amongst the Remoter *Highlanders* and *Islanders*, We looking upon that as the greatest and best mean of Rooting out the Popish Errours, Immoralities and Profanity, and withal we shall give Directions to our Privy Council, for the exact Application of our Royal Authority, and Laws to these good Ends; And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Fifth Day of February, And of Our Reign the First Year 170²₃

By Her Majesty's Command

TARBAT.

Direct,

To the Reverend and well Beloved, The Moderator, Ministers, and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer
TO
The Queens Gracious Letter

Edinburgh, 13 March 1703. Ante Merid. Sect. 4.

May it please Your Majesty,

AFTER the Afflicting Death of our late Sovereign King *WILLIAM*, of ever Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whom, and under whose happy Government, through the favour of God, we enjoyed many signal Blessings never to be forgot; Your Majesties happy succeeding in the Throne of this Your Ancient Kingdom, was a most comfortable Releif; And since Your Accession to the Crown of Your Royal Ancestors, The Ministers of this National Church, have constantly both in their publick and private Addresses to God, heartily Blessed and Praised His Holy Name, for setting over us Your Majesty, a Protestant Queen, to be a Nursing Mother to this Church.

And We do offer to Your Majesty our humble and hearty Thanks, for allowing to us the Countenance and Protection of Your Royal Authority, in this National Assembly; And that Your Majesty hath been pleased in Your Gracious Letter to us, (which was received and Read with all Duty Honour and Respect) to refresh and encourage us, by renewed Assurances of Your Protection of the Presbyterian Government of this Church, so happily established, as agreeable to the Word of God, which we are perswaded will endear you more and more to the hearts of the generality of them, who fear God, and are truly faithful to Your Majesties Interest, and Government in this Land.

Your Majesties entrusting the Earl of *Seafield*, The Lord High Chancellor of this Your Ancient Kingdom, to be

Your Majesties Commissioner, to represent Your Royal person in this Assembly, is very acceptable to us, he being of approved Ability, Fidelity and Loyalty; And of whose kindness this Church hath had good Experience.

We Bless GOD, who puts it in Your Royal Heart, and Bless You in the Name of the LORD, That You Recommend to us, that which is so much our Duty, to be sollicitously careful of what may advance the Interest of the Reformed Protestant Religion, and for suppressing of the growth of Popery, and the placing of well qualified Ministers amongst the Remoter Highlanders and Islanders, which Your Majesty is pleased to say on good Grounds, That You look upon as the greatest and best mean of rooting out the Popish Errors, Immoralities and Prophanity; We shall endeavour to apply our selves to these things as our great Work: And do humbly supplicat Your Majesty according to Your Gracious Promise, that it may be recommended to Your Majesties Privy Council, and all Inferior Magistrates, that Your good Laws may be exactly applyed for these good Ends, and vigorously Executed, especially against Popery and Immorality.

Your Majesty also is pleased to Recommend to us, to be have with Meekness and Charity toward these of the Reformed Religion, albeit differing from us in forms of Church-policy, We own Meekness and Charity to be the Duty of all, especially of Pastors and Office-bearers in the Church of Christ, and shall through Grace follow after these things, as we have hitherto done. But we wish that all the differences were meerly about Church Policy (tho even for this we be sorry) And that there were no difference about our Confession of Faith towards God, and our Duty towards Your Majesty.

We are encouraged by the Law of the Land, And do rely on Your Majesties Gracious Promises, That all Practices and Endeavours, which tend to the subversion, or prejudice of the Establishd Government of the Church, shall be discouraged and restrained; and it shall be our endeavour, by the Grace of God, so to Act in this Assembly, That we may approve our Selves to God, and to Your Majesty, and to give such new proofs of our Duty and Loyalty, that Your Majesty may never have Cause to Repent, of Your Royal favour shewed to this Church.

That GOD may long preserve Your Sacred person, direct and prosper Your Councils, make You a Blessing to Your own People, and a Defence to all the Reformed Churches, That, while War continueth, God may Bless Your Forces, and these

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these of Your Allies, both by Sea and Land with Success, that in due time You may be a Blessed Mean, to Restore the Peace of Europe: And that Religion and Righteousness may Flourish in Your Days, Is and shall be the Prayer of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient and most Humble Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders, met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment, By

Geo. Meldrum Moderator.

I V.

Commission to some Ministers and Elders, for planting Vacant Kirks in the North, the Highlands and Islands, and other Affairs Remitted to them.

At Edinburgh, the Eighteenth Day of March, One Thousand seven Hundred and three Years.

Ante merid. Sess. 7.

THe General Assembly considering, That there are yet some Vacant Churches on the North side of Tay, and in the Highlands; As likewise several weighty Affairs which this Assembly cannot overtake, Do therefore find it needful, that there be a Commission granted to some Ministers and Elders for planting these Vacant Churches, and doing what shall be referred to them, concerning the Highlands and Islands, and other matters, And for that end do hereby Nominate, Commissionate and Appoint Masters *Thomas Thomson* at Old-machir, *Hugh Anderson* at Cromarty, *William Crichton* at Edinburgh, *John Law* there, *George Hamilton* there,

there, *George Meldrum* there, *David Williamson* at West-Kirk, *John Hardie* at Gordon, *William Calderwood* at Litgerwood, *Gabriel Semple* at Jedburgh, *Thomas Shields* at Sanguhar, *Thomas Warner* at Ballmaclellan, *Patrick Simson* at Renfrew, *Duncan Campbell* at Roseneath, *Robert Rule* at Stirline, *Robert Eliot* at Kinglassie, *Edward Jamieson* at Monymail, *John Anderson* Principal of the Leonardine Colledge of St. Andrews, *William Mitchel* at Dundee, *Thomas Kinnear* at Echt, *James Robertson* at Glenmerrick, *James Osburn* Professor of Divinity at Aberdeen, *Thomas Blackwell* Minister there, *William Lesly* at Kemney, *William Mair* at Oyn, *David Anderson* at Foveran, *Andrew Guthrie* at Peterhead, *James Brown* at Aberdour, *William Johnston* at Auchterless, *Hugh Innes* at Mortleugh, *Charles Primrose* at Belly, *John Gilchrist* at Keith, *Alexander King* at Elgin, *James Thomson* there, *Alexander Forbes* at Dyck, *Robert Baillie* at Inverness, *William Stewart* at Kiltarn, *George Gordon* at Rosemarkney, *Walter Denoon* at Golspie, *William Innes* at Thurso in Caithness, *Alexander Grant* in South-ronaldshay in Orkney, *Thomas Baikie* at Kirkwall there, *George Duncan* at Wales in Zetland, *Archbald Riddel* at Edinburgh, *Thomas Wilkie* in Cannongate, *David Blair* at Edinburgh, *John Moncrief* there, *George Barclay* at Uphall, *Thomas Millar* at Kirkliston, *John Kinnaird* at East-Calder, *Robert Livingston* at Biggar, *John Buchanan* at Covington, *James Thomson* at Peebles, *Archbald Torrie* at Newlands, *William Trail* at Borthwick, *Patrick Cuming* at Ormestoun, *David Walker* at Temple, *Mathew Reid* at Northberwick, *Robert Horseburgh* at Prestonpans, *George Turnbull* at Tynninghame, *Andrew Brown* at Spott, *Archbald Borthwick* at Greenlaw, *James Ramsey* at Eyemouth, *John Dysart* at Coldinghame, *James Douglass* at Stow, *Robert Wilson* at Melrose, *Hugh Craig* at Gallafields, *Alexander Colden* at Oxnam, *James Borland* at Bedrule, *John Simson* at Marbole, *William Vetch* at Drumfrees, *James Guthrie* at Irongray, *John Somervail* at Carlaverock, *George Mulliken* at Moffat, *William Steil* at Lochmaben, *John Dunlop* at Mouswal, *James Elder* at Keir, *John Lawrie* at Wauchope, *Robert Darline* at Ewes, *Andrew Cameron* at Kirkcudbright, *Alexander Telfer* at Rerick, *William Boyd* at Dalry, *Thomas Campbell* at Monygaff, *Thomas Castlelaw* at Leswell, *Robert Rowan* at Penninghame, *Thomas Kennedy* at Ballentrac, *John Lawrie* at Auchinleck, *Andrew Rodger* at Galston, *Henry Osburn* at Torbolton, *John Hunter* at Air, *John Glasgow* at Kilbirny, *John King* at Dalry, *Thomas Clark* at Ardrossen, *Robert Wylie* at Hamilton, *Robert Muir* at Kilbryde, *Thomas Linning* at Ilesmahago, *John MacLaran* at Carstairs, *James Brown* at Glasgow, *David Brown* there, *James Clark* there, *John Stirline* Principal of the Colledge of Glasgow,

Andrew

Wyllie

Andrew Turner at Erskine, James Brisbane at Kilmalcolm, David Fleckfield at Balfrone, Robert Wallace at Badernock, Daniel Maclauren at Kilfinnan, Daniel Mackay at Inverary, James Boes at Campbeleton, Neil Macviccar at Fort-William, Daniel Maccaullay at Killmuir, Samuel Nairn at Errol, John Tullidelph at Dumbrtaine, Thomas Black at Perth, John Colquhoun at Drone, Alexander Glas at Kinclavan, George Frier at Lethendy, William Spence at Fossoway, John Drummond at Creiff, Hugh White at Leibert, Alexander Hamilton at Airth, Alexander Douglas at Logie, Thomas Buchanan at Tulliallan, John Anderson Junior at St. Andrews, William Hardy there, Robert Clelland at Kilrenny, James Hadow Professor of Divinity in St. Andrews, William Dick at Cowpar, James Pitcairn at Kettle, Thomas Halyburton at Cires, James Grierson at Weems, Joseph Drew at Markinsh, John Shaw at Lesly, Hugh Kemp at Dumfermline, Andrew Thomson at Orwal, Samuel Johnston at Dundee, William Miller at Meegle, James Ramsay at Bendochie, George Weems at Ferne, James Robertson at Menmuire, Francis Melvil at Arbuthnot, John Thomson at Marykirk, and John Ferguson at Aberbrothwick, Ministers; James Earl of Seafield Lord High Chancellour of Scotland, John Earl of Tullibardine Lord Privy Seal, George Earl of Melvil, John Earl of Therglen, Patrick Earl of Marchmont, John Earl of Hyndfoord, Charles Lord Yester, James Lord Carmichael, David Lord Boyle Thesaurer Depute, William Lord Forbes, William Lord Ross, Robert Lord Burleigh, John Lord Bielhaven, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of North-Berwick Lord President of the Session, Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees Her Majesties Advocat, Sir Colin Campbell of Aberuchill, Sir John Hamilton of Halcraig, Sir David Home of Crossrig, Sir William Anstruther of that Ilk, Four of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. John Campbell Brother to the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffan, Lieutenant Collonel John Erskine Governour of Dumbrtaine Castle, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston, Ludovick Grant Elder of that Ilk, William Baillie of Lammington, Sir John Home of Blackader, Sir John Pringle of Stitchell, Sir John Swinton of that Ilk, Sir Walter Riddel of that Ilk, Archibald Douglass of Cavers Sheriff of Teviotdale, George Baillie of Jerviswood, James Pringle of Buckholm, Kilpatrick Younger of Closeburn, Sir Charles Hay of Park, Sir James Agnew of Lochnew Sheriff of Galloway, Sir William Cuninghame of Cuninghamehead, Sir James Campbell of Auchinbreck, James Campbell Younger of Ardkinlesse, John Alexander of Blackhouse, William Muir of Glanderston, Sir William Baird of Newbeith, Sir John Clerk of Pennycook, Sir Robert Stewart of Allanbank, Alexander Duff of Bracco, James Brodie of that Ilk, Hugh Ross

of Kilravock, *Duncan Forbes* of Coloden, *Sir Thomas Burnet* of Leyes, *Sir Alexander Ogilvy* of Forglen, *Sir William Dunbar* of Hemprigs, *Sir William Craigie* of Gairfay, *Lieutenant Collonel John Erskine* Governour of the Castle of Stirling, *Adam Drummond* of Meggins, *John Vaney* of that Ilk, *Arthur Forbes* of Eight, *David Ross* of Balnagowen *Munro* of Fowlis, *Hugh Cunninghame* present Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *Sir Robert Cheisly*, *Sir Patrick Johnston* late Lord Provosts there, *John Scrimzeour* of Kirkcoun, late Provost of Dundee, *John Allardes* late Provost of Aberdeen, *Walter Stewart* of Pardivan, *Hugh Montgomery* of Bussie Provost of Glasgow, *Robert Inglis* Goldsmith late Deacon Conveener of Edinburgh, and *William Livingston* present Deacon Conveener there, Ruling Elders, to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect before, and aftermentioned: *With full Power* to the saids persons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Twenty one of the saids Commissioners, whereof Fourteen are always to be Ministers; To Meet and Conveen within the Assembly House at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten Hours in the Forenoon; And afterwards to meet the first *Wednesdaves* of *June*, *September*, *December* and *March*, and oftner when and where they shall think needful and convenient; With power to the said Commission to chuse their own Moderator. And sicklike, the General Assembly fully Impowers and Authorises their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, to cognosce, and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every Affair referred, or to be referred to them, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given to them by this General Assembly. And Finally, With power to the said Commission to advert unto the Interest of the Church on every occasion, and that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice, which belongs to them to prevent, as they will be Answerable to the next General Assembly: And they are hereby strictly prohibite and Discharged, to meddle in any other matters, than what are herein committed to them; Declaring also, That in, and for all their Actings they shall be countable to, and Censurable by the next ensuing General Assembly of this Church. And Lastly, Declares that this Commission shall continue until the next Meeting of the General Assembly.

V.

Instructions, by the General Assembly, to their Commission.

Eadem Sessione.

That this Commission as oft as they shall see cause, apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for their countenancing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allowes; and for putting in Execution the Laws against *Popery* and *Profaneness*, and seeking redress of *Grievances*, particularly the contempt of the *Censures* of the Church inflicted upon Scandalous Persons, and for settling Vacant Congregations, and regulating the *Poor* by providing Maintainance, and Labour for them, and to meet when the Parliament sits.

2. That when any of the Ministers, who served under the late *Prelacy*, whose Lives and Doctrines may render them Useful to this Church, do apply for Reception into a share of the Government of the Church; The General Assembly do Impower and Recommend to their Commission to receive them, according to the 13th. parag. of the 16th Act of the *General Assembly Anno 1697*: And that the said Commission be careful, to get due Information from the Presbyteries where the said Person Applying does, or did Officiat, and for the time Resides.

3. That this Commission, in disposing of Her *Majesties Gift* to this Church, do particularly take care, that the Encouragement, granted by the General Assembly *Anno 1699* to *Probationers*, who are to go North to Preach, be rendered Effectual; And that they cause defray the extraordinary Charges and Expences that several Ministers of the North have been at, in carrying on the planting of Churches, and other publick Affairs of the Church there.

4. The said Commission is to cognosce, and finally Determine, in all References already made, or to be made to them by this Assembly, and References and Appeals for *Transporting Ministers* to the North, and the Highlands and Islands, which shall be brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent *Anno 1699*, and that *Transportations* to any Paroch in these places, whether privileged by former Acts of Assemblies or not, be carried on, and that in the most expedite way.

5. This Commission is also to correspond with the State, anent *Fasts* and *Thanksgivings*, as occasion requires, and to specify the causes thereof.

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6. This Commission is to give *Advice* and *Assistance*, to any *Synod* or *Presbytry* in difficult cases, as they shall be applied unto by them for that effect; As also this Commission is impowered to proceed according to the 7th. Act of the General Assembly 1700, made in favours of the Presbyteries of *Cathness*, *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

7. This Commission is Impowered, to enquire how *Ministers Transported*, or to be Transported by the General Assembly, or their Commissions, have *Obedied*, or shall Obey; And in case of *Disobedience*, That they suspend the Disobedient Persons for three Months, and in case they do not Obey after these three Months are elapsed, That then they be simpliciter Deposed.

8. This Commission is to give all due Encouragement and Assistance, to any Proposals, may be made to them, anent endeavours for *Reformation of Manners*, and for the effectual curbing of Profanity.

9. That the said Commission shall see to the effectuating, whatever shall be by this Assembly committed to them, concerning the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and Vacant Churches in the *North*, for *Erecting Schools*, and what else may tend to the Encouragement of Religion, and Advancing of Reformation in these places.

V I.

Act, anent the better Attendance of Members of the Commission.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly considering, that the Affairs referred by them to their Commission, are of great moment, and importance to the Church; Do therefor require and ordain the Members thereof, to give all due Attendance thereon, as they will be answerable; And do hereby enjoin the several Presbyteries, to send up such of their Number as are Members thereof, to each quarterly meeting of the same: And do ordain the Clerks of the Commission, to Record Lists of the Absents, from each quarterly meeting, and from the meetings in time of Parliament (without a reasonable excuse) or who shall go away therefrom, without leave first obtained, and send an Extract of their Names to the respective Synods, who are impartially

to enquire, into the reasons of their absence, and to censure them, as they shall see cause, and make report thereof, to the next General Assembly. And to this effect, that the Clerks of the Commission, do lay before that Assembly the Lists of these Absents; And the General Assembly recommends it to Presbyteries, to supply the Charges of the Ministers, who are Members of this Commission, during their Attendance thereon.

V I I.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings, of the Commission of the General Assembly Anno 1701.

March 19. 1703. post merid. Sess. 8,

THe Visitors of the Commission-Book made Report, that they had Revised the Records of the Commission of the Assembly Anno 1701, wherein they found, That the Commission had been at great pains and Diligence, in the many and weighry Affairs Referred to them, and gave in their Observes upon the said Book; And the Moderator having been a Member of that Commission, removed from the Chair, and Mr. *Alexander Heastie* at the desire of the Assembly did Moderat *pro tempore*, Then the General Assembly took under consideration the proceedings of the said Commission, contained in their Book, subscribed by Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* Moderator, and *Nicol Spence* Sub-clerk, and having heard the Visitors Remarks thereon, together with the Moderator of that Commission, and Members thereof, their Answers thereto, It was put to the Vote, Approve the Proceedings of the said Commission, or not, and it carried in the Affirmative; Therefore the General Assembly did, and hereby do, Approve of the Actings and proceedings of the said Commission, of the General Assembly anno 1701, and appoints their Clerk to Attest the same, at the end of the Register of the said Commission.

V I I I. Ad-

VIII.

*Address of the General Assembly of the
Church of Scotland, to the Queen.**Edinburgh 22 March 1703, Ante meridiem Sess. 9.**May it please Your Majesty,*

THE entire confidence, we repose in Your Majesties stedfast Zeal, for the true Protestant Religion, and in the renewed Gracious Assurances, we have from Your Majesty, to maintain and protect the Presbyterian Government of this Church, as at present established; with the sense of the Duty we owe to God, and to his Church in this Nation, and to Your Majesty our Undoubted and Rightful Sovereign, Do imbolden us, in pursuance of those Christian ends, recommended to us by Your Majesty, in the beginning of this Assembly, to lay before Your Majesty, in all humble Duty, those things that indanger the safety, and obstruct the Success of Religion, and trouble the quiet and peace of this Church and Kingdom.

We humbly crave leave to represent to Your Majesty, That our Reformation from Popery was by Presbyters; Whereby the Presbyterian Government in an equal parity, without any Superiority among them, was at that time settled. And for this constitution and Church-Government, the constant Perswasion, Zeal and Concern of the Ministry and People of this National Church, is sufficiently known to Your Majesty, and to the World; GOD having always signally Blessed the Presbyterian Government of this Church, and the Discipline thereof, for the suppressing of Prophane-ness, and curbing of Error, in this Your Ancient Kingdom.

Upon these considerations, at the late happy Revolution, and for remeeding of the many Evils we had suffered, and preventing the like in time coming, the Claim of Right did declare against Prelacy, as a great and insupportable Grievance and trouble to this Nation, And for Presbyterian Parity in this Church; And by the Acts of Parliament thereon ensuing, Presbyterian Government is settled as agreeable to the Word of GOD, and most conducive to the Advancement of true Piety and Godliness, and the Establishing of Peace and Tranquillity: And therefore to be the only Government of Christs Church within this Kingdom.

And

And of this Government, as well as of the true Protestant Religion, We have, through the Infinite Mercy of GOD, under the protection of our late Sovereign Lord King *William*, and of Your sacred Majesty, enjoyed the peaceable and comfortable possession, with much Concord and Tranquillity.

Norwithstanding whereof, It is our extream Sorrow, that we find our selves constrained to represent to Your Majesty, for Your Gracious Help and Relief, *First*, The extraordinary Growth of Popery, and bold and insolent traffiqueing of Popish Preists and Jesuits, in several parts of this Kingdom; And that not only by secret practices, but by avowed keeping of Mass-meetings and Houses, and insulting of some of our Ministers, and dareing even to set up Schools, to the corrupting and poysoning of Youth, and many other unaccountable attempts, as it in a Popish Country, to the great Dishonour of God, the violation of Your Majesties good Laws, the increase of disaffection to Your Royal Government, and the Grief and Disquiet of the Hearts of Your Faithful Subjects.

Secondly. Tho we acknowledge our selves to be unquestionably bound as Christians, and more especially as Ministers of the Gospel of peace, to maintain Charity and forbearance toward those who peaceably differ from us, and contain themselves within the just limits of Sobriety and reason, yet we cannot but complain of the Disorders of some of the Episcopal Clergy, who with a few of their abbettors that have given as little evidence of their Affection to Your Majesties Government, as to the established Church, Transgress Your Laws by preaching, tho not qualified to Your Majesties Government; By despising Sentences of Deprivation by the Privy Council, and Deposition by Church Judicatories, by invading settled Churches, by Intruding into Vacant Churches, and by Irregular Baptisings, and Clandestine Marriages, and several other gross Abuses: All which tend to the weakning and frustrating the good ends of Discipline, the increase of Licentiousness and Irreligion, and the spreading of Error, and Doctrine contrare to our Confession of Faith ratified in Parliament.

And of these things we have in the sincere Discharge of our Duty to God, and Your Majesty, drawn up a particular condiscendance to be given in to Your Majesties Privy Council, whereof We have transmitted just doubles to Your Secretaries for Your Majesties better and more full Information.

Thirdly, We must also regrave the abounding of Immorality and Prophaneness, notwithstanding the clear light of the Gospel, that we enjoy, and the many laudable Laws that have been made to restrain them.

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These

These being the Heads of our Grievances, Wherein Your Majesty, sees how much the Glory of GOD, the purity of Religion, the Obedience to Your Laws, the Honour of Your Government, and the peace and quiet of this Church and Kingdom are concerned: We do in all Humility most earnestly Entreat, that Your Majesty will be pleased in Your Royal Wisdom, and Goodness, to appoint, that the Laws against Papists, may be Executed with Vigour, by all the Officers of the Law in all parts of the Kingdom; And that all unwarrantable and illegal Attempts of Dissenters, against the Established Government of this Church, and the Peace of the Kingdom be punished and prevented according to Law; And that a Proclamation in Your Majesties Name be issued out, for that effect; And for the strict execution of the Laws against Immorality and Prophaneness in persons of all Ranks: And that all Magistrates, and Officers of Justice, give due and ready Assistance as Law ordains, for making the Sentences and Censures of the Church, and its Judicatories effectual.

That GOD may long preserve Your Majesty, for the Defence of the true Protestant Religion, the Comfort of all the Churches of Christ, and the welfare and Prosperity of this Church and Kingdom, shall be the constant and Fervent Prayers of

May it please Your Majesty,

*Your Majesty's most Faithful, most
Obedient and most Humble Subjects,*

*The Ministers and Elders met in this
National Assembly of the Church of
Scotland.*

*Signed in Our Presence, in Our
Name, and at Our Appointment, By*

Geo. Meldrum Moderator.

IX. A

I X.

Act approving some Overtures, concerning the Planting of Vacant Churches in the North, the Highlands and Islands, and supplying thereof with Ministers, and Probationers, and promoting Religion and the Knowledge of God in these places.

Edinburgh 22. March 1703. Sess. 9.

1. **T**Hat the Commission of the General Assembly, be Impowered to send *Ministers* and *Probationers* to any Presbytry, in the *North*, or *Highlands*, or *Islands*, and to take special care to find out, and send thither, Probationers having the *Irish Language*, when called for.

2. When any Congregation in the *Highlands*, shall call any Minister, having the *Irish Tongue* settled in the *Lowlands*; That the Commission be Impowered to consider the Affair, and Determine therein, as they shall see cause; And special regard is to be had, to former Acts of the General Assemblies thereanent.

3. That during the Vacancy of the Kirks of the Town of *Aberdeen*, the Synods of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Glasgow* and *Aire*, supply the same quarterly, *per vices*, till the next Assembly; And that Mr. *Henry Shaw*, Minister of *Cockburnspath*, formerly appointed, do go thither against the first Day of *April* next, from the Synod of *Lothian* for the first quarter.

4. That the case of *Brichen*, and speedy Planting thereof, be recommended to the special care of the Commission; As also the planting of the Vacant Kirk of *Inverkeelvor*, and others within the Province of *Angus* and *Mernes*.

5. That the Presbytry of *Dunkeld* be declared, to have the same privilege with the *North* and *Highlands*; And that the punctual supplying of the Vacancies therein, be recommended to the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*. And particularly, that the Presbytry of *Perth*, take the burden of supplying of two of these Vacancies, until the next Assembly; And that it be recommended to the Commission, to send thither Probationers having *Irish*, when called for, particularly one to the parish of *Meen*.

6. That the Commission be appointed and Impowered, to give all due Encouragement to any Proposals, made or to be made, anent Erecting *Schools* and *Libraries* in the *Highlands*, and apply to the Government thereanent, as they shall see cause.

7. That the Commission be Impowered, as they shall find convenient, to send some Ministers having *Irish* and Others, to *Visite* and supply the Vacant *Kirks* in the Highlands, and stay there for some time, especially in the Summer Season, and to Catechise the People, and be at pains with them, to concur in Advancing a Reformation; And in order thereunto, to encourage the Erecting of Schools, and endeavour to prevail with Parents, to send their Children to be Taught to Read: Which Ministers are from time to time to send an account of their Diligence, and Success, and of the State of the Country they are supplying in, to the Commission, especially anent Papists, that Application may be made to the Government thereanent.

8. That the Commission be Impowered, when they get notice of *Students* having *Irish*, fit to be entred on Tryals for the Ministry, to recommend such Students to Presbyteries in order to pass; And when they pass, to send them to the Highlands, with the ordinary allowance: And this may prevent their being settled in Lowland-Congregations.

The General Assembly, having heard and considered the Overtures abovementioned, they did by their Vote, and hereby do approve thereof, and Enact, Ordain and Recommend, according thereto in all points.

X.

Act anent Reception of Converts from Popery.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly taking to their consideration, the 18th. Act of the General Assembly anno 1700, Entitled, *Act anent Regulating the Reception of such as come off from Popery*, which appoints, that the Reception of any that comes off from Popery, to the Communion of this Church, should be the Deed of a Church-Judicatory, Do now Declare that by Judicatories, in the said Act, is not meant any below a Presbytry,

XI.

X I.

Act, for supplying and preserving the Registers and Papers, belonging to the General Assemblies, Committees, and Commissions thereof.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly taking to their consideration, the great loss the Church hath Sustained, by the Burning of several of their Registers, and some Papers, in that dreadful Fire, which happened in the Land-Mercat of *Edinburgh*, upon the 28th. Day of *October* 1701. Do for making up that Loss, as far as may be, and for the better preservation of their Registers in time coming, Enact and appoint, that there be two Authentick Copies thereof, both subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, one Copy whereof to ly in the Clerks custody, and the other Copy to be Sealed, and laid in some secure place in the New Church of *Edinburgh*, or where the General Assembly or Commission shall appoint: As also, That a subscribed Extract of the proceedings of each General Assembly, be sent a little after the rising thereof, to the several Synods within this Church, to be by them Recorded in a Book: And all this to be done upon the publick Charges of the Church. And Recommends to such Persons, as have any of the Old Registers, or Papers belonging to the General Assembly, Commissions or Committees thereof, in their custody, to deliver up the same to the Clerk of the General Assembly, to be by him kept for the publick use of the Church; And that Ministers and Presbyteries, be at pains, in dealing with persons for that effect; And its Recommended to the Commission, to Gratify those who shall bring in to their Clerk any of the Papers, or Registers foresaid, as they shall find such persons deserve.

X I I.

Act, anent the Overtures concerning Church-Discipline.

Eadem Sessione.

THe which Day, the Committee appointed by this Assembly, for considering the Printed Overtures concerning the Methods, and Forms of Procedure in Ecclesiastick Judicatories, Reported, That they found, that the Committees

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appointed

appointed in the Years 1698, 1699, 1700, and 1701. having received the remarks of some Presbyteries upon the saids Overtures, they compared the same with these Overtures, and had made their own Observes, deleting many superfluous Overtures, amending others, and sometimes adding, and that the said Committee of this Assembly, having read part of the saids Overtures, with the Observations and Alterations of the said Committees 1698, 1699, 1700, and 1701; Do Judge their Remarks Pertinent and Judicious: And were of Opinion, that a Committee should be chosen, out of the Bounds of the Synods of *Lothian, Glasgow* and *Fife*, or any others the General Assembly shall please, yet to revise the saids Printed Overtures with the remarks, and cause transcribe and Re-print them, with the Alterations and Additions, leaving out all superfluous Overtures, Sentences and Words, and that they be appointed to Revise the two other Chapters concerning Synods and General Assemblies, their Committees and Commissions, not yet Printed, and add the same to the Printed Overtures, and present the whole to the Commission of this Assembly, at their quarterly Meeting in *June* next, that they may cause Print and Transmit the same, to the several Presbyteries, within this National Church, that the saids Presbyteries may send in their Opinions thereanent, to the next General Assembly. Which Report being heard and considered by the General Assembly, they unanimously agreed thereunto, and accordingly Nominate, the Reverend Mr. *George Meldrum* Moderator, Mr. *William Crichton*, Mr. *George Hamilton*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *David Blair* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *George Barclay* at *Uphal*, Mr. *Robert Wylie* at *Hamilton*, Mr. *John Stirline* Principal of the Colledge of *Glasgow*, Mr. *Thomas Linning* at *Lefmehagoe*, Mr. *Archbald Hamilton* at *Cambuslang*, Mr. *John Anderson* Principal of the *Leonardine* Colledge of *Andrews*, Mr. *John Anderson Jun.* Minister there, Mr. *James Hadow* Professor of Divinity there, and Mr. *Hugh White* at *Lerbert* Ministers, The Right Honourable Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Lord President of the Session, Sir *James Stewart* of *Gutters* Her Majesties Advocat, Sir *Colin Campbel* one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, and *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormeestoun*, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee for the Effect foresaid. And the General Assembly refers to their Commission, to name the time and place of the said Committees first meeting.

XIII.

Act, Re-uniting the Parishes of Dalry and Carsferne, to the Presbytry of Kircudbright.

THe General Assembly having heard and considered, a Petition from Mr. *William Boyd* Minister of *Dalry*, and Mr. *John Reid* Minister of *Carsferne*, Craving that their saids Parishes, might be Reunited to the Presbytry of *Kircudbright*, from which they were Disjoined, by the 5th Act Gen. Assembly Anno 1699, and Annexed to the Presbytry of *Wigton*, and having also considered the Reasons for the said Re-annexation of the saids Parishes, and Answers made thereto for the Presbytry of *Wigton*, Did by their Vote, and hereby do again Disjoin the saids Parishes of *Dalry* and *Carsferne* from the Presbytry of *Wigton*, and Re-unite and again Annex the same to the said Presbytry of *Kircudbright*.

XIV.

THe next General Assembly of this National Church, is to be holden at *Edinburgh*, The Sixteenth Day of March, in the Year One Thousand seven Hundred and Four.

This Assembly was Concluded with Prayer, Singing the 133rd Psalm, and Pronouncing the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

Jo. Dundas Clk.

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After Sermon by Mr. David Williamson Moderator of the last Assembly, The General Assembly did convene, and being opened by him.

Mr. George Meldrum Professor of Divinity in the Colledge of Edinburgh, was chosen Moderator *Sess. 1.*

Mr. John Dundas Advocat chosen Clerk to the General Assembly and Commissions thereof, in the Room of Mr. David Dundas deceased. *Ibidem*

The Commissioner's and Moderator's Speeches, at opening of the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Answer to Her Majesties Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

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Committee for considering Commissions, censuring Absents, and Naming Ministers to Preach before the Commissioner, and supplying the Vice of the Ministers of Edinburgh, and Suburbs, who are Members of this Assembly. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Commission and Synod Books to be produced next Meeting. *Ibid.*

Appointment of a Dyer for Prayer. *Ibid.*

At Dyer spent in Prayer. *Sess. 2.*

Resolved that an Address be drawn to the Queen, and a Committee appointed for that end. *Sess. 3.*

Recommendation anent more punctual observing the Acts of the General Assembly, regulating Elections and Commissions to the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

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The Synods of Aberdeen, Ross, Glasgow and Air, and Presbyteries of Caithness and Zetland, not having produced their Books, are ordered to bring the same to the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Names of Students of Divinity and Probationers, to be given in to the Clerks of the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

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- Committee for receiving the Opinions of Presbyteries, concerning the Overtures transmitted by the General Assemblies Anno 1700 and 1701, and comparing the same. Ibid.
- Act continuing Mr. John Logan Minister at Kilmadock, and refusing his Transportation to Alloway. Ibid.
- Committee for drawing Overtures and Instructions concerning a Commission to be appointed by this Assembly Sess. 5.
- Reference to the Commission concerning a process anent Mr. John Skinner at Bothkenner. Ibid.
- Act refusing the desire of Mr. Hugh Machendries Petition, for taking off a Sentence of Deposition; But recommending to all Presbyteries on the South side of Tay, to collect something for his present necessity, and send in the same to the Clerks of the General Assembly. Ibid.
- Report of a Committee concerning a Commission and Instructions thereto, also for augmenting their former Quorum to 21 &c. Sess. 6.
- Recommendation in favours of the Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers, and others concerned in the Royal Gift to them, of one year of the Bishops Rents Ibid.
- An Act for a Contribution among Members of the General Assembly in favours of Mr. William Staige Probationer, with a Recommendation to the Commission anent him. Ibid.
- A Remit to the Committee for Overtures concerning the Registers and other Papers belonging to the Church, particularly these lost in the Fire 28 October 1701. Ibid.
- Act continuing Mr. Alexander Hamilton Minister at Airth, and refusing his Transportation to Stirling. Sess. 7.
- Reference to the Commission concerning the planting of Stirling and Alloway. Ibid.
- Reference to the Commission concerning the planting of Haddington. Sess. 8.
- Act refusing the Petition for Alloway craving a recognoscence of the Assemblies Sentence, continuing Mr. John Logan at Kilmadock. Ibid.
- Report anent the proceedings of the Commission of the General Assembly, Anno 1702. and Vote of the Assembly thereanent. Ibid.

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Committee for revising the Presbytry Book of *Cathness* produced. *Sess. 9.*

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Act appointing Mr. *Hugh Innes* Minister of *Mortclain* to correspond with the Presbytry of *Strabogie* for a year at least. *Ibid.*

Mr. *John Calder* ordered to be sent to *Southerland* so soon as he is Licenced. *Ibid.*

Mr. *George Monroe* ordered to be sent to *Ross* so soon as he is Licenced. *Ibid.*

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Mr. *John Willieson* Probationer sent to the Presbytry of *Mernes* or *Fordoun*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission concerning Mr. *John Wilson* lately at *Kirkwall* for further Censure; he being already Suspended by the Presbytry of *Orkney* for Intrusion and other Offences. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission concerning Mr. *James Hart* in *Shappinsbay* in *Orkney*, anent dimitting, or getting an helper to him, being superannuate. *Ibid.*

Report of the Commission Anno 1701, concerning the loss of the Registers and others papers belonging to the Church, in the Fire at *Edinburgh*, 28. October 1701.

Report of the Committee for Overtures anent the saids Registers and papers, with a List of these Registers that were lost, and the Judicial Declaration of *Nicol Spence* Sub-Clerk to the General Assembly, and Commissions thereof, anent the same, and a Reference to the Commission. *Ibid.*

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 The Reports anent the Presbytry Book of *Orkney* and other Synod Books delayed to be called for, till next Sederunt. *Ibid.*
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 Reference to the Commission concerning Mr. *John Mackenzie's* appeal from the Synod of *Argyle's* Sentence, deposing him for Error in Doctrine; &c. *Ibid.*
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